1:Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

like a pendulum. An explanation of this method of divination will be found in the paragraph dealing with divination.

There is also a pair of squeezers used by the old and toothless for breaking up betel-nut. In the houses of the well-to-do is to be seen the ordinary hubble-bubble of India. Outside the houses of cultivators are wooden troughs hollowed out of the trunks of trees, which are used either as drinking troughs for cattle or for feeding pigs. A special set of utensils is used for manufacturing liquor. The Synteng and Wár articles of furniture and utensils are the same as those of the Khasis, with different names, a remark which applies also to those of the Bhois and Lynngams. Both the latter, however, use leaves as plates, the Bhoi using the wild plantain and the Lynngam a large leaf called *ka 'la mariong*. The leaves are thrown away after eating, fresh leaves being gathered for each meal. The Lynngams use a quilt (*ka syllar*) made out of the bark of a tree of the same name as a bed covering. This tree is perhaps the same as the Garo *simpak*. In the Bhoi and Lynngam houses the swinging shelf for keeping firewood is not to be seen, nor is the latter to be found amongst the sub-montane Bodo tribes in Assam.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

The Khasis have not many musical instruments, and those that they possess, with one or two exceptions, are of very much the same description as those of the Assamese. There are several kinds of drums, viz. *ka nákrá*, which is a large kettle-drum made of wood having the head covered with deer-skin; *ka ksing*, which is a cylindrically-shaped drum rather smaller than the Assamese *dhol* (*ka ksing kynthei* takes its name from the fact that this drum is beaten when women, *kynthei*, dance), *ka padiah*, a small drum with a handle made of wood; *katasa*, a small circular drum. Khasi drums are nearly always made of wood, not of metal, like the drums to be seen in the monasteries of Upper Assam, or of earthenware, as in Lower Assam.

Ka duitara is a guitar with *muga* silk strings, which is

4:Stegmiller--M-4,5(no date)1925 AR7 Khasi AR7

Arrow Shooting and Hunting Customs of the Khasi

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1. Arrow Shooting and Its Implements.

Corresponding to the general interest which is shown in arrow shooting, the tools that belong to this art are prepared with great skill and ability, (1) namely the bow, the arrow, and the target.

1. Hermann Meyer, Pfeil und Bogen in Zentralbrasilien, (Leipzig, 1895), p. 16. [Bows and Arrows in Central Brazil].

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A kind of bamboo with many knots is used for the Khasi bow (ka rynthieh), and it is cut out in one piece so that there are at least five knots on the bow. The length of the bow is about 1.5 meters. It is not a matter of indifference how long the bow is. The best shots claim that the bow must be made to measure and must be made shoulder height. The size of the man determines the size of the bow. (2)

2. Bruno Adler, Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie, [International Archive for Ethnography] Vol. 14, Supplement: "Der nordasiatische Pfeil", [The North Asian Arrow], p. 14: "The long arrow of the Japanese corresponds to the longest bow which we find in Asia-phenomena which are in the grossest contrast to the small figure of the Japanese."

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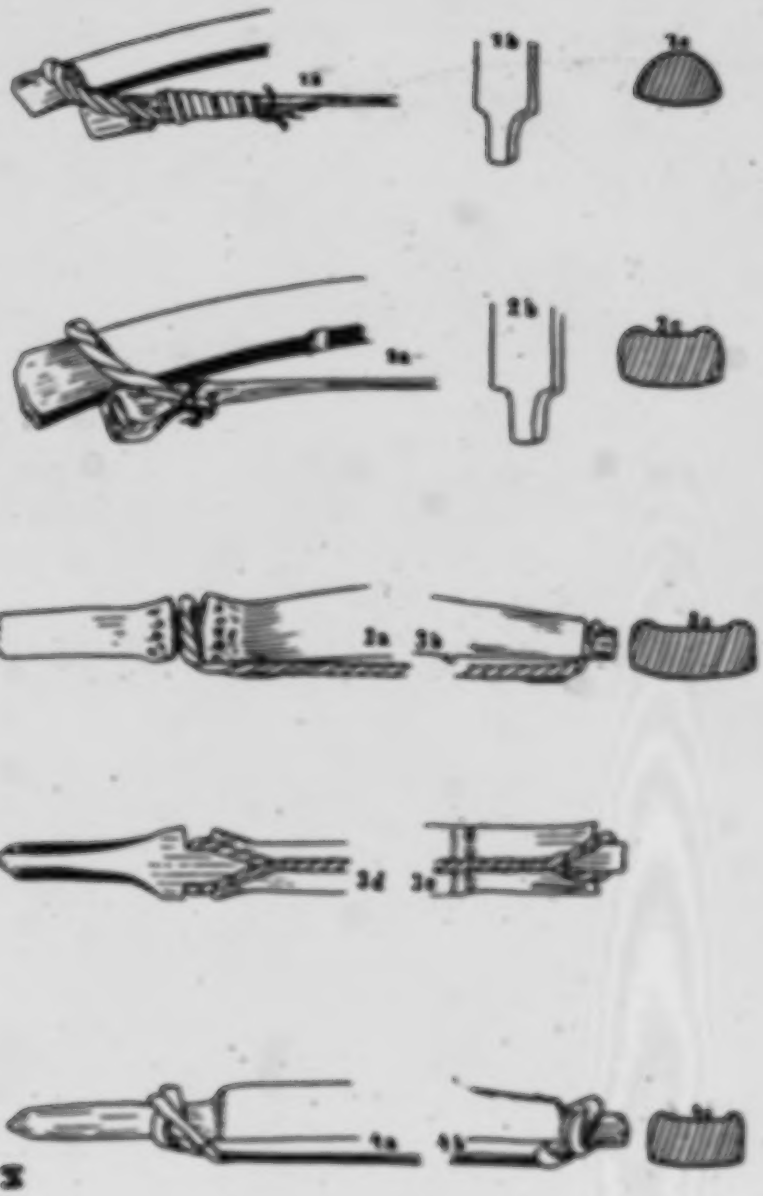

Fig. I

When a strong bamboo with many knots is found, it is cut off and split after the length has been determined. The outside of the bow in smaller bows is rounded off; (3) 411 322

3. Illustration I, fig. 1c.

for the usual bows and the larger ones almost the full half of the bamboo is taken. A little is cut off only on the sides so that the profile of the bow nearly forms a right angle. (4) In each case the shiny

4. Illustration I, figs. 2,3,4c.

outer side of the bamboo becomes the inside of the bow. The bow becomes smaller towards the ends. The ends are rounded off. Underneath one end, about 3 centimeters from the end, a notch is made, into which the string is put directly without any other means of fastening. The string remains fastened by pulling the loop taut. At the other end of the bow a peg is cut, around which the string is hung just before the bow is used. Often both ends of the bow end in a point. (5)

5. Illustration I, fig. 1, 2b.

The bow must not be kept strung but must be unstrung when left unused for a while. Stringing the bow is always done in this way. The archer takes the bow in his left hand while standing, resting on the ground the end to which the string always remains attached, and then pressing down the other end with his right hand as far as is necessary to hang the loop of the string around 411 284

411 the peg. In many cases with bows with the
284 points indented the string is attached by means of a special loop of bast or split bamboo (u thri), but it is also fastened directly by bringing around the peg. [608] [Illustration I. Khasi Bows. 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b, 4c]. [609] The bow is carved flat in the middle and a strip of reed palm is wound around it so that there is a band 12 to 15 centimeters wide around it. The purpose of this is to provide a surer grip, as the left hand, which carries the bow when shooting, gets a better grip on the ribbed foundation. In other places also, primarily at the ends of the bow, such reed strips are fastened and merely serve the purpose of ornamentation.

411 When the bow is completed, it is thoroughly
322 smoked. The smoking takes place in the hut. In the center of the hut a fire burns constantly in a hearth of earth or of stone, the smoke of which, since there is no vent or chimney, seeks a way out the best it can. Above the fire a swing is set up from the ceiling on which the wood lies for drying. The bow and also the string are left lying on this swing until the desired result occurs. Smoked bows are more resistant to dampness, longer lasting, and considerably tougher. The smoking has no effect on the flexibility of the bow. (6)

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6. Ethnographic Museum Munich: Bows As, 108, a, b, c, have 3 knots; bow As, 28, has 4 knots; bow J has 3 knots; bow S has 5 knots; bows As, 108, a, b, c, have a length of 119.5 centimeters; bow As, 28 has a length of 114 centimeters; bow J has a

Name of village (A)	Name of society (B)	Sponsored by (C)
7. Sohliya ...	(1) Credit Society.	Local people
	(2) Co-operative Trading Society.	
8. Diengiong ...	Marketing Society.	Do
9. Shella ...	Trading Co-operative Society.	Do

6.10 **Cottage Industries.**—It has already been mentioned that Village and Cottage Industries are not very popular in the district.

The following table shows the statistics regarding these industries in the various villages :—

TABLE B-9

Industry (A)	No. of villages reporting existence of the industry (B)	No. of villages reporting production for sale (C)
Cane and bamboo works ...	9	7
Blacksmithy	5	5
Tailoring	5	2
Handloom	—	—
Weaving and Spinning ...	3	1
Brewing of country, etc. ...	1	1
Brewing of tea	1	1
Others	3	1

Blacksmithy and making of baskets, cane products, etc., out of cane and bamboos, are a traditional occupation. Weaving and spinning of cotton, rearing of eri& cocoon and weaving of eri& silk, are in vogue only in the Khasi hills and the areas adjoining Nowrang and North Cachar and Mikir Hills districts. Eri& rearing is found in the northern portion of the district, *i.e.*, Mawryngkneng area.

Cottage cane and bamboo works and blacksmithy which industries are practised to a very limited scale. There is thus a lot of scope for introducing cottage industries in the district.